

## ROUTING AND TRANSMITTAL SLIP

Date  
23 APR 86To: Name, office symbol, room number,  
Routing Agency (Room)

Initials Date

DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SERVICES

Action	File	Note and Return
Approved	For Clearance	Per Conversation
Not Requested	For Correction	Prepare Reply
Disagree	For Your Information	See Me
Investigate	Investigate	Signature
Justify		

## ACTION

PREPARE APPROPRIATE RESPONSE WITH

COPY TO ER AND EXO/DDA.

DO NOT use this form as a RECORD of approvals, concurrences, disposals,

## EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

ROUTING SLIP

TO:

	ACTION	INFO	DATE	INITIAL
1	DCI			
2	DDCI			
3	EXDIR	X		
4	D/ICS			
5	DDI			
6	DDA	X		
7	DDO			
8	DDS&T			
9	Chm/NIC			
10	GC			
11	IG			
12	Compt			
13	D/OLL			
14	D/PAO			
15	D/PERS			
16	VC/NIC			
17	C/IPD	X		
18				
19				
20				
21				
22				

SUSPENSE

Date

Remarks To 6: Please have appropriate response prepared. (Provide copy to ER.)

Executive Secretary  
22 April 1986

Date

3637 (10-81)

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86-

1676X



**PORTER, WRIGHT,  
MORRIS & ARTHUR**

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April 17, 1986

Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D.C. 20505

Subject: Freedom of Information Act Procedures at CIA

Dear Mr. Director:

I am sending copies of the attached correspondence to you, despite the many pressing items on your agenda, because I find the results so unacceptable that I think it deserves your attention.

I initially filed a Freedom of Information request with the Agency on December 10, 1982. The inquiry related not to some matter of historical interest or of journalism, but to the whereabouts of two missing children of American citizens, who disappeared in Colombia. This kind of inquiry has some inherent urgency about it, even though, as we now assume, the persons in question are probably dead.

Notwithstanding the above, it took the Agency until April 8, 1986 to finally dispose of this inquiry by finally releasing to us a cable of extremely marginal relevance and withholding two documents in their entirety without any indication of whether or not they contain any information which might be useful to the family.

There must be a way to place certain inquiries on a priority list particularly when they deal with missing persons or situations of similar urgency.

Finally, the form letter used by the FOIA Office for such situations reads like a bureaucratic joke. It states the basis on which the two documents are denied but provides no information which could conceivably serve as the basis for appeal. Nevertheless, the letter requires that the basis for appeal be explained.

- 2 -

As a former government attorney, I must say I paid less attention to Freedom of Information requests when I was within the government than perhaps I should have. The concerns expressed here are, I believe, serious and I hope that you will take steps to review the process and to determine whether there is not some basis on which we can learn something about the contents about the two documents which have been withheld.

Very truly yours,



JLK:nt

Attachments

cc:

Information and Privacy Coordinator

STAT

PORTER, WRIGHT,  
MORRIS & ARTHUR

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

*File -  
Welch*  
**COPY**

08 APR 1986

Porter, Wright, Morris & Arthur  
1133 15th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005

STAT

Attention: [REDACTED]

STAT

Dear [REDACTED]

STAT

During the course of its search for documents in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, on behalf of [REDACTED] of 10 December 1982, the Department of State located three documents originated by this Agency. They have been referred to us for review and direct response to you.

After a careful examination of the material, it has been determined that one document, a cable dated 4 January 1983, may be released to you in a segregable form. Deletions were made on the basis of the (b)(3) exemption of the FOIA. A copy of the segregable portion of the document and explanation of the exemptions are enclosed under Tab A.

The remaining two documents, reports dated 29 April and 14 May 1982 are denied in their entirety on the basis of the (b)(1) and (b)(3) exemptions of the FOIA.

The CIA officials responsible for these determinations are [REDACTED], Directorate of Operations, Information Review Officer and [REDACTED] Directorate of Science and Technology, Chief, Management Staff.

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Enclosed under Tab B is a copy of our 29 December 1983 letter to [REDACTED] of your firm providing him with the results of his FOIA request (F82-0964) on behalf of [REDACTED]. As indicated in our letter, an exception was made, the responsive substance was extracted from the two denied reports, recast into two separate documents and copies furnished to [REDACTED].

STAT

You may appeal this decision by addressing your appeal to the CIA Information Review Committee, in my care. Should you decide to do this, please explain the basis of your appeal.

We apologize for the length of time it has taken to respond to your request.

Sincerely,



STAT

Information and Privacy Coordinator

Enclosures

**Page Denied**

29 DEC 1983

STAT

[redacted]  
Porter, Wright, Morris and Arthur  
1133 15th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005

STAT

Dear [redacted]

STAT  
STAT  
STAT

This is our final response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request of 10 December 1982 in which, on behalf of your clients, [redacted] you requested information concerning [redacted]  
[redacted]

[redacted] of the Agency's Office of General Counsel alerted you earlier that the Agency's response to your client's FOIA request is being sent in an unusual form. This letter will confirm what you have been told and also transmit the information CIA has which is responsive to the FOIA request.

STAT

The search for responsive documents resulted in the retrieval of two CIA records. They have been reviewed with particular care. The documents in their original form are clearly exempt in their entirety pursuant to FOIA exemptions (b)(1) and (b)(3). An explanation of the exemptions and the related statutes is enclosed at Tab A. They are exempt in entirety principally because of the form in which they appear. That form is incidental to the substance which your clients are interested in receiving. After several false starts it became apparent that it was impossible to treat the documents in such a manner as to remove all exempt information without removing the responsive substance as well. Normally in such circumstances the Agency would merely deny the documents in entirety.

Recognizing the anxious concerns of your clients, the Agency made an exception. The responsive substance has been extracted from the documents and recast in two separate documents which are enclosed with this letter. There was no attempt to paraphrase the substance. The language was lifted almost verbatim from the original documents. We recognize and have earlier stated to you that our information adds little, if anything, to that available in the State Department documents that have already been released to you. I want to assure you, however, the Agency has made a conscientious effort to be as

forthcoming as possible. The determination to withhold the remaining portions of the documents was made by  Information Review Officer for the Directorate of Operations of CIA.

STAT

I am informing you of your right to appeal the above decisions by addressing your appeal to the CIA Information Review Committee, in my care. Should you decide to do this, please explain the basis of your appeal.

We apologize for our long response time.

Sincerely,

/s/ Larry R. Strawderman

Larry R. Strawderman  
Information and Privacy Coordinator

Enclosures

**Page Denied**

Next 1 Page(s) In Document Denied